

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners
Resolution**

Whereas, Brevard County has over 107,000 precious children whose safety and well-being is of the utmost importance to our citizens, and

Whereas, in 1996, the Florida Legislature created FS 409.1617 requiring the privatization of child welfare, with the intent of transitioning the management from a state run to a locally driven system of care through public/private partnerships that would take responsibility for the children and families that reside within the local community, and

Whereas, in 2004, Brevard County government, community leaders and local citizens came together to develop priorities for the local System of Care that would greatly improve the quality of life of those served and reduce the number of children who suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment, and help to reduce the number of children entering the formal child welfare system, and

Whereas, Brevard Family Partnership was established in 2004 as the result of a partnership of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, Children's Home Society and Devereux Florida to form the lead child welfare agency in Brevard County to formally implement and achieve the community's vision and priorities for its local System of Care, and

Whereas, Brevard Family Partnership, with the help of its partners, providers and community supporters has reduced the number of children in the formal child welfare dependency system, by more than 50%, and

Whereas, case managers, local providers, and community partners have gone above and beyond to serve the children and families of Brevard County and children who are temporarily removed from their homes, and over 500 children have become members of "Forever Families" through public adoption, and

Whereas, through the vision of the community to implement an aggressive front end prevention and diversion program, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. prevention and family preservation program has served over 14,000 children who have been kept safe and free from abuse enabling their families to remain together in their homes and communities, and

Whereas, it has been proven, through evidence that Community Based Care as designed by Together in Partnership, ratified by the Community Alliance and managed by Brevard Family Partnership works in Brevard County and that such a model is in the best interest of Brevard County's children and families and should remain the chosen System of Care in Brevard.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners acknowledges its continued support of Brevard Family Partnership as the lead child welfare agency in Brevard County and endorses the system of care model it employs, which has served our children and families well.

DONE, ORDERED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida, this 10th day of April, 2012.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**